



The Rotary Leadership Institute International E-Bulletin
August 2008 - www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions in various parts of the world. It is not an official program of Rotary International and is not under its control. The RLI seeks to have Rotary Clubs in member districts identify those Rotarians who seem to have the POTENTIAL for future club leadership (not necessarily as club presidents) and provide those so identified with a quality education in Rotary knowledge and leadership skills for voluntary organizations.

Quote of the Month

"That's the thing about visionaries. They don't imagine what's easy. They imagine the benefits to be reaped once all the obstacles are overcome."

Bob Herbert in the New York Times of July 19, 2008

Welcome Back!!

We resume publication of our monthly EBulletins after the annual July "recess". Despite our recess for the Northern Hemisphere Summer, much has happened in RLI since the Convention in Los Angeles. We report on some of these "happenings" and wish all our members and friends a great Rotary Year of good fellowship and service.

Please Note Change of Email Address- The new address for our RLI Executive Director, Michael Rabasca, is m.rabasca@comcast.net .

A SAD REPORT

We sadly report the death of Past Rotary International President William E. Skelton of Blacksburg, Virginia USA. Bill was the senior past president of the RLI Senior Leaders Advisory Board. He was the long time chairman of the R.I. Leadership Development and Training Committee and advisor to that committee in recent years. He was instrumental in developing the District Leadership Plan and was an early supporter of leadership education, including RLI. We extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Peggy Skelton and the Skelton family.

GREETINGS TO OUR FRIENDS OBSERVING RAMADAN!

RLI sends its best wishes and greetings to our many friends observing the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Random Thoughts about Rotary Leadership and RLI

"I think that the Rotary Leadership Institutes are now proving their immense value" Immediate Past R.I. President Wilf Wilkinson

Editor: There seems to be increasing discussion in Rotary about attracting and retaining our members. RLI and many others believe that a very important effort must be made to strengthen our Rotary Clubs. Past R.I. President Cliff Dochterman, always a wise observer of everything Rotary, has said that "I've seen far too many Rotary Club meetings which just aren't worth attending, or taking the time or becoming a priority in the lives of busy business and professional men and women. It is a

challenge to our club leaders that they are given the skills to make Rotary meetings interesting, informative, well organized and fun for the members if we want members to come back week after week." While there are many factors in strengthening our clubs, the quality of club leadership is certainly a major factor and RLI is working hard to help improve club leadership. RLI welcomes comments on issues of club leadership.

Welcome New Member Districts

RLI is pleased to welcome two new districts to the RLI family:

District 5110 has joined the Cascadia Division under the leadership of its District Governor Michael C. Fischnaller. That district consists of 69 clubs with five in the State of California USA and 64 clubs in the State of Oregon USA. PDG Chris Offer of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada is Chair of that international division that now consists of seven districts.

District 6910 has joined the Sunshine Division under the leadership of its District Governor Garland C. Moore. The district consists of 67 clubs in the State of Georgia USA. PDG Timothy C. Schuler is the Chair of the Sunshine Division that now consists of 12 districts, including all the districts within Florida and Georgia and Caribbean countries.

CORRECTION

RLI incorrectly stated that there was a new chair of the Lebanon Division. The Chair is still Jamil Mouawad of Ehden, North Lebanon, who had a very successful year in 2007-8.

Continued Thank You!

Rotarians are still talking about the wonderful RLI Breakfast in Los Angeles in June. The people who made it all happen are Mike Rabasca, Chair, Doris Obremski, Annual Report Editor, Sergeants-at-Arms Frank Wargo, Nathan Alexander, Claire Rabasca, Tam and Rahma Mustapha, Knut and Ana Johnsen, Dan Spencer and Valerie Castagna. Of course our speakers were great including then R.I. President Wilf Wilkinson, Past R.I. President Luis Giay and the Board representatives who brought greetings, Vice-President Mike McGovern, Treasurer Ian Riseley and Director Barry Rassin. We are looking forward to another fine breakfast session in Birmingham, England next June. Plans will be announced this fall.

Welcome New Members of the Senior Leaders Advisory Board

RLI is very proud to announce additional members of the RLI International Senior Leaders Advisory Board since the Convention:

Past R.I. President Cliff Dochterman of California USA joins seven other past R.I. presidents on the Board. The following current, past and incoming directors joining are: Kenneth E. Collins of Australia, 2000-2; Jackson San Lin Hsieh of Taiwan, 2008-10; Michael J. Johns, USA, 2007-9; Kwang Tae Kim of Korea, 2005-7; Jorma Lampen of Finland, 2000-2; Themistocles A.C. Pinho of Brazil, 2007-9; Jose Alfredo Pretoni of Brazil, 1995-7; K.R. Ravindran of Sri Lanka, 2009-11; Jose Alfredo Sepulveda of Mexico, 2008-10; and Philip J. Silvers, USA, 2008-10. We very much appreciate the support, advice and counsel of our Senior Leaders.

RLI Adopts Goals for 2008-09

As we encourage our member districts and clubs to do, RLI has adopted goals for the current Rotary year after surveying our members. The expansion goal is to have at least 180 member districts by June 30, 2009. Other major goals are: Continue to upgrade resources for and service to all member divisions; continue to expand RLI personnel and administrative support; expand the International Training Teams; continue to revise the recommended curriculum and graduate programs to keep pace

with changes in Rotary and continue faculty orientation to constantly improve discussion leader techniques.

Regional expansion goals will be sent to Regional Vice-Chairs and divisions.

Updates of International Faculty Orientation and Promotional Visits

As was announced in June, as the 2007-8 Rotary year drew to a close, Frank Wargo, RLI Vice-Chair for Training held faculty orientation sessions in Queenstown and Auckland, New Zealand and Melbourne Australia. RLI Vice-Chair Knut Johnsen conducted a faculty orientation session in District 2750, Tokyo, Japan.

The first international training team visit for 2008-9 was to Lisbon, Portugal in July to conduct a new faculty orientation program for the Portugal Division. Trainers were Antonio Hallage of Brazil, RLI Regional Vice-Chair and International Chair David Linett. PDG Diamantino Gomes and PDG Frederico Jose Eusebio Nascimento, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Division organized the event for 20 new faculty members. The sessions were conducted in Portuguese and English.

25 new faculty members attended a faculty orientation session in Sao Paulo, Brazil on August 1, 2 led by RIDE Tony Hallage, RLI Regional Vice-Chair. Plans were made by the division to offer Part I course sessions in October in two parts of the Sao Paulo Division. Chair of the Division is PDG Jose Luiz Fonseca.

Three Intl. Training Teams are tentatively planning to visit Western Europe, East Asia and Australia and Latin America during October-November. February through April visits may include Eastern Europe and Middle East and South Asia. Details will be announced in the next RLI EBulletin.

Personnel Changes - The Heart of America Division has elected new officers. The Division Chair is now PDG Richard Wagner of Heyworth, Illinois, the Division Vice-Chair is PDG Dave Weller of Frankfort, Kentucky and Executive Director remains Chuck Farrar of Illinois. The former Division Chair, PDG Keith Lape is now Treasurer. Keith was the founding Chair of the Division which grew to 15 member districts under his leadership. We thank Keith and wish the new officers well.

AROUND THE RLI WORLD

An article has appeared in Rotary Down Under, the Regional Rotary Magazine for Australia, New Zealand and Oceania entitled "Leadership Development Vital to Rotary's Future." It discusses the faculty training session held in Geelong, Victoria, Australia with RLI Trainers Frank Wargo and Michael Rabasca. The article quotes Past R.I. Director Ian Riseley and other RLI leaders. The session was organized by RLI Regional Vice-Chair Cathy Roth of Geelong.

Another article on RLI written by Regional Vice-Chair Chris Offer, appeared in the Newsletter of R.I. Vice-President Monty Audenart for Zone 22 (now Zone 24). Zone 22 has 11 time zones in Canada, Alaska and Eastern Russia.

Nepal now has its own district 3292 that is also the territory for the RLI Nepal Division. The new district became effective on July 1 after approval by the R.I. Board of directors in 2005. The former District 3290, previously one of the largest districts in Rotary, was split and the clubs in Eastern India, centered around Kolkata, are now District 3291.

French speakers are invited to read this EBulletin and other items of interest on the website of the RLI France Division, Institut Rotarien de Leadership, at www.irl.section.fr. The website covers the activities of RLI in France and Monaco under the leadership of PDG Jacques di Costanzo.

RLI divisions have announced numerous course sessions for this Rotary year in every part of the globe. When revision of the RLI Website is completed, many course dates will be posted on the site.

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